

BASTLES IN TARSET



Gatehouse Bastle hamlet two bastles survive with walls intact; a third forms part of a field wall; foundations and base courses survive in the fourth; all buildings privately owned

Not one of Tarsset's bastles survives in its original form. A few were modernised to make more comfortable dwellings or adapted for other purposes, usually farm buildings. A number were occupied or in use until the 19th century. In most cases, bastles have been used as a source of stone for other buildings or dry-stone walls.

Of the 33 bastles studied by TAG

5 are roofed (in slate) and are still in use as dwellings or out-buildings

5 are substantially ruined, retaining at least parts of all four walls, but not all to full height

11 are partially ruined

5 survive as fragments within later buildings

5 exist only as 'humps and bumps' with little or no masonry visible

2 are reported sites with no visible remains

Apart from Boghead and Shilla Hill, all these bastles are on private land with no public access.

Most bastles stand singly and are south facing, but in Tarsset there are also clusters of two or more. At Gatehouse there were at least four bastles, possibly five.



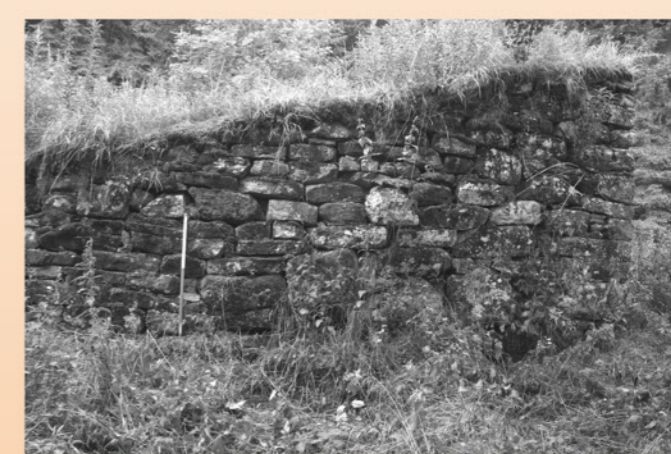
Snabdaugh an atypical bastle design with second floor vaulted stone ceiling below more modern slate roof; Grade 1 listed; now a private house



North Gatehouse intact masonry with external stairs in two sections; re-roofed in slate; later doorway on ground floor; blocked upper doorway at back led to former hay loft; Scheduled Ancient Monument, Grade 2* listed; privately owned



South Gatehouse building roofless by 1970; original walls in poor condition; front (south) wall rebuilt to incorporate windows and doorways; partly rebuilt by owners in 1992; Scheduled Ancient Monument, Grade 2 listed; privately owned



Boghead conservation work in process; parts of 4 walls survive; asymmetrical gable walls; interior rubble-filled from collapse of vault; scheduled Ancient Monument, Grade 2 listed, public access on foot only



Shilla Hill sections of all 4 walls survive; 2009 consolidation work. Scheduled Ancient Monument; public access on foot only through forest



Burnmouth 1 first bastle at this site, incorporated in boundary wall; on private land, this view from public road



Burnmouth 2 second bastle at this site; walls have been robbed, probably for other buildings on site; on private land



Highfield 1 one of 3 possible bastles at this site; some original foundation survives; fragments of worked stones found on site and in farm buildings; on private land